

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0014] ~~The~~ An exemplary means of carrying out the ~~invention of claim 1 to solve~~ solution of the above-described technical problem is a neck of a synthetic resin bottle comprising a round neck wall and multiple screw threads of a multi-threaded screw structure disposed on the outer surface of the round neck wall, each screw thread comprising a main thread in charge of a screwing function, a starting extension extending from a main thread start point of the main thread with width and height thereof being reduced gradually from the dimensions of said main thread and an ending extension extending from a main thread end point of the main thread with width and height thereof being reduced gradually from the dimensions of said main thread, wherein the starting extension of a screw thread is vertically disposed above the ending extension of another thread, with both extensions in the same length, and wherein the neck is entirely whitened by thermal crystallization.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0017] In a first exemplary embodiment, ~~the invention of claim 1~~, the starting extension is disposed above the ending extension, in which the large-size portion of the starting extension is disposed above the small-size head of the ending extension, and the small-size head of the starting extension is disposed above the large-size portion of the ending extension. Thus, the starting extension and the ending extension are complementary to each other in their positions.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0019] ~~The invention of claim 2~~ A second exemplary embodiment includes the configuration of the ~~invention of claim 1~~ first embodiment and also comprises that the

starting extension and the ending extension are formed, with width and height thereof being reduced gradually at the same, roughly constant rates from the start point and the end point of the main thread.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0020] In the ~~invention of claim 2,~~second embodiment, the starting and ending extensions are formed, with dimensions reduced gradually at the same, roughly constant rates from those of the main thread measured at the start point and the end point of the main thread, but in the direction opposite to each other. The two extensions have the same structure except that the directions are opposite. Therefore, the extent of unevenness obtained from complementary positions of extensions is roughly equivalent to that obtained from the main threads of screw threads.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0021] ~~The invention of claim 3-~~A third exemplary embodiment includes the configuration of the ~~invention of claim 1 or 2-~~first or second embodiments and also comprises that the neck has a multi-threaded spiral structure of screw threads in a number of  $n$ , with  $n$  being 2 or a larger integer, wherein main thread zones amounting to the number of  $n$  are formed in a central angle range of a little less than  $360^\circ/n$ , in which zones the main threads of at least two screw threads are disposed obliquely in parallel, with one main thread laid above the other, and wherein each thread extension zone is formed between two of said main thread zones that are equally spaced around the neck, with the starting extension of at least one screw thread being disposed above the ending extension of another screw thread in these thread extension zones.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0022] In the ~~invention of claim 3,~~ third embodiment, the main thread zones amounting to the number of  $n$  are formed in a central angle range of a little less than  $360^\circ/n$ , and the main threads of at least two screw threads are disposed obliquely in parallel, with one thread laid above the other, in these main thread zones. Therefore, the central angle range of a thread extension zone is calculated by:

$$[(360^\circ/n) - (\text{the central angle range of a main thread zone})]$$

This makes it possible to set the central angle range of the thread extension zone and to set a short length for the starting extension and the ending extension properly.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0023] The ~~invention of claim 4~~ fourth exemplary embodiment includes the configuration of the ~~invention of claim 1, 2, or 3,~~ first, second or third embodiment, and also comprises forming a groove in the outer surface of a round neck wall in the circumferential direction at a height above the screw threads, at a specified central angle position, and in a specified central angle range to protect the neck against sinks, which tend to develop in the top end face of the round neck wall under the effect of thermal crystallization treatment, and then whitening the neck by the thermal crystallization treatment.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0024] The configuration concerning the groove of ~~claim 4~~ the fourth embodiment is added, if necessary, to the configuration concerning the positions of the starting extension and the ending extension of each screw thread according to ~~claim 1 to 3,~~ the first to third embodiments, where the starting extension is vertically disposed above the ending extension.

This groove configuration is aimed at effectively controlling the sinks caused by thermal crystallization in the top end face of the neck.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0025] In the ~~invention of claim 4,~~fourth embodiment, a peripheral groove or groove segments are formed in the upper portion of the outer neck wall in the circumferential direction, at a height above the screw threads, at a specified central angle position, and in a specified central angle range while consideration is given to the layout of the screw threads. The entire flow of resin can be adjusted by narrowing the resin flow passage at the circumferential positions where the groove is formed. Because of this adjustment, it is possible to reduce the differences in the flow state in the circumferential direction and in the state of molecular orientation and to control effectively the occurrence of sinks that develop in the top end face of the neck due to the thermal crystallization treatment.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0029] The means of carrying out the fifth exemplary embodiment ~~invention of claim 5~~ comprises that the groove of ~~claim 4~~the fourth embodiment is formed around the neck as intermittent groove segments.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] Under the configuration of ~~claim 5,~~the fifth embodiment, the groove can be formed intermittently as groove segments, depending on the observed state of sink occurrence. Thus, the flow state is adjusted by simple-shaped groove segments in the circumferential direction so that the sinks can be controlled effectively.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0031] The ~~invention of claim 6~~ sixth exemplary embodiment includes the configuration of the ~~invention of claim 3~~ third embodiment, and also comprises that the groove is formed as peripheral groove segments around the neck in the outer neck wall at the height above screw threads, except in the thread extension zones, to control the sinks caused by thermal crystallization in the top end face of the neck.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0032] In the ~~invention of claim 6~~ sixth embodiment, the groove is formed around the neck, except in the thread extension zones where molten resin flow passages undergo a larger change than in the main thread zones. If the width of resin flow is narrowed in the area where the groove has been formed, then the effect of the change in the resin flow state of the thread extension zones can be adjusted at the time of injection molding of the preform. Thus, the sinks can be controlled effectively when the groove is combined with the configuration of the starting and ending extensions that are disposed vertically with one above the other.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0033] The ~~invention of claim 7~~ seventh exemplary embodiment includes the configuration of ~~the invention of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6~~ the first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth embodiments, and also comprises that a bead ring is disposed on the outer surface of the round neck wall right under the threaded area and is used to fit a pilfer-proof cap made of a synthetic resin.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0034] In the ~~invention of claim 7,~~seventh embodiment, a bead ring is formed so that a pilfer-proof cap made of a synthetic resin can be fitted to the neck by means of this bead ring. In addition, the effect of screw threads on the molecular orientation can be softened to some extent by forming the bead ring.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0035] The ~~invention of claim 8,~~eighth exemplary embodiment includes the ~~invention of claim 7,~~seventh embodiment, and also comprises that a bead ring and a neck ring are disposed in the lower portion of the neck below the screw threads and that the neck including these bead ring and neck ring is whitened by the thermal crystallization treatment.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0036] In the ~~invention of claim 8,~~eighth embodiment, the bead ring and the neck ring are disposed, if necessary, in the lower portion of the neck, and the neck including these rings is whitened by thermal crystallization. Because of these bead ring and neck ring, relatively thick portions are formed peripherally in the lower portion of the neck, and can be used to soften the effect of screw threads on the resin flow to some extent.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037] ~~This invention having the~~The above-described configuration has the following effects: Due to the mutual complementation of unevenness, the ~~invention of claim 1~~first embodiment enables the flow state of molten PET to be equalized in the circumferential direction of the neck including the starting and ending extensions. As a result, the degree of crystallization can be made uniform, and thus the sinks caused by thermal crystallization can

be controlled effectively in the top end face of the neck. The ~~invention of claim 1~~ first embodiment also enables the neck to have a strong and stable sealing property.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0038] In the ~~invention of claim 2~~ second embodiment, an improved extent of unevenness is obtained by the positional complementation between the starting extension and the ending extension, in which the former is disposed vertically above the latter. Since the extent of this complemented unevenness is almost equivalent to the extent of unevenness obtained from the main screw threads, the molecular orientation state can be uniformly distributed over the entire periphery of the neck. Therefore, a sufficient preventive effect against sinks can be obtained from complemented unevenness.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0039] In the ~~invention of claim 3~~ third embodiment, it becomes possible to set a central angle range suitably in the thread extension zone, where the starting extension is disposed above the ending extension, and thereby, to set a suitable length for both of the starting and ending extensions so that the entire multi-threaded screw structure can be simplified. For example, if the main thread zones are formed in a central angle range of a little less than  $360^\circ/n$ , then it is possible to reduce the central angle range of the thread extension zone and to set a short length for the starting extension and the ending extension, which are disposed vertically with one extension above the other.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0040] In the ~~invention of claim 4~~ fourth embodiment, the resin flow state is adjusted by forming the groove in the circumferential direction at a specified position and in a central

angle range. Coupled with the configuration concerning the positions of the starting and ending extensions of screw threads, with the starting extension being disposed above the ending extension, this adjustment serves to reduce the differences in both of the state of the flow in the circumferential direction and the molecular orientation state. Thus, the sinks caused by the thermal crystallization treatment can be prevented effectively from developing in the top end face of the neck.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0041] In the ~~invention of claim 5,~~ fifth embodiment, the groove can be formed intermittently as groove segments, depending on the observed state of sink occurrence. Thus, the state of flow in the circumferential direction is adjusted effectively by the groove segments in a simple shape.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0042] In the ~~invention of claim 6,~~ sixth embodiment, the resin flow state in the thread extension zones can be adjusted so as to offset the effect of changes in the resin flow and to control the sinks effectively.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0043] In the ~~invention of claim 7,~~ seventh embodiment, the pilfer-proof cap made of a synthetic resin can be fitted to the neck, and the effect of screw threads on the molecular orientation crystallization can be reduced to some extent. Therefore, the controlling effect against sinks can be further increased.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following rewritten paragraph:



[0044] In the ~~invention of claim 8, eighth embodiment~~, the sinks can be more effectively controlled because the bead ring and the neck ring are used to soften the effect of screw threads on the resin flow to some extent.